Moggie Lee Mayer -

MINUTES

Gift -

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OF THE

SEVENTEENTH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

PILGRIM'S REST ASSOCIATION,

OF

OLD SCHOOL UNITED BAPTISTS;

HELD

WITH FIVE MILE CHURCH,

GREENE COUNTY, ALA:

COMMENCING ON FRIDAY PRECEDING THE FIRST LORD'S DAY IN OCTOBER, 1853

BY WILLIAM H. FOWLER,
At the Office of the Alabama Whig.
EUTAW, ALA.
1853.

MINUTES.

Met according to previous appointment. The introductory Sermon preached by Eld. Thos. West, from the first epistle general of John, and the 4th chapter, and 19th verse, "We love him because he first loved us."

Article, 1st. Eld. Thomas West was chosen Moderator and Jessee Hill, Clerk. And on motion and seconded, the article of faith, abstract of principles and rules of decorum were read.

Art. 2nd. Called for corresponding letters from sister associations. Received from the Tombigbee asssociation a letter and package of minutes by the hands of brethren Alford Ellis, Littleton Temples and Henry Bolling. From Zionrest association, a package of minutes by the hands of brethren John P. May and Thos. Townsend.

Art. 3rd. Appointed committees. On Arrangements: Brethren Scarborough, Murphy, Upchurch, with the Moderator and Clerk. Committee on Finance: Of Brethren R. B. Petty and Abel Strickland. Committee to examine the circular letter: Brethren Eld. Jones Malone, Abel Strickland and William Scarborough. Then adjourned until to-morrow morning half after 9 o'clock, A. M.

Art. 4th. Met October 1st, 1853. Prayer by Eld. J. P. May. Called for the report of the Committee on Arrangements. Committee reported and received and the committee discharged. Called for the report of the committee to examine the circular letter, the committee reported, the letter read and ordered to be attached to the present minutes. Committee discharged. Committee on Finance reported as follows:

Received from the Churches, : :	$27 50
Balance on hand from last year, : :	5 00
Total. : : : : : :	$32 50

Art. 5th. Allowed the Bro. Clerk Eight Dollars for superintending the printing of the Minutes last year.

Art. 6th. On motion and seconded, that Articles of Faith, Abstract of Principles, Rules of Decorum and Cir-

cular Letter all be attached to our present Minutes.—Motion and seconded that we have 250 copies of our Minutes printed, and reserve 50 copies for correspondence.

Art. 7th. Motion and seconded, that our next association be held with Five-mile Church, Greene County, Ala., 12 miles East of Eutaw, commencing on Friday before the first Sabbath in October next, 1854, and Eld. Jones Malone be appointed to preach the introductory sermon, and Thos. West his alternate. And Eld. Jones Malone to write the circular to be presented to the next association.

Art. 8th. Appointed correspondence to sister associations. Appointed Bro. Cephas Nance to the Tombigbee association, Brethren Eld. Thos. West and Dempsey Daniel to Zion-rest association; dropped correspondence with the Buttahatchy, only by Ministers.

Art. 9th. Motion and seconded that the Clerk be authorised to send the minutes to each church to their nearest Post Office.

Art. 10th. Opened a door for promiscuous business.

Art. 11th. Motioned and seconded that Brethren Jessee Hill and William Scarborough be authorised to correct an error in our Articles of Faith and Abstract of Principles, and make a new record of our Association, owing to the former one being damaged.

Art. 12th. Motion and seconded, that this Association appoint two union meetings in the 1st district with Salem Curch, Pickens County, to commence Friday before the fourth Sabbath in July next, 1854. 2nd. district with Rehoboth Church, Greene County, commencing Friday before the fourth Sabbath in May next, 1854.

Art. 13th Motion and seconded, that the Moderator appoint Ministers to occupy the stand on the Sabbath, (to-wit:) Brethren Ellis and Malone. Then intermission of 20 minutes, after which time Brethren Allen and Crawford occupied the evening.

Art. 14th. The Brethren met the congregation at the stand and preached in the order of their names, to a large and well ordered congregation, and looked with many as though it might be as bread cast upon the waters that may be gathered many days hence.

Art. 15th. Then they closed by returning thanks of the Association to the Brethren and vicinity of the Church.

THOMAS WEST, *Moderator.*

Jessee Hill, *Clerk,*

CIRCULAR ADDRESS.

Very dear brethren and sisters in the Lord: may grace, mercy and peace be multiplied to you.

According to appointment you will expect a Circular Address from us. Many have been the subjects written on; but we will call your attention to 1st Corinthians, 15th chapter, and 56th and 57th verses.

"The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law; but thanks be to God which give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

The apostle in writing this epistle was speaking of the resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust. But every one in their own order, &c. The law is to govern and demand obedience. Sin, or disobedience, is a transgression of the law, and the law to inflict punishment by its justice. God made man to glorify him by obedience, for obedience is required by a law. God gave Adam a law for his government, with the penalty of death announced for disobedience;—hence we find our federal head and representative, to-wit: Adam, a transgressor, and all his posterity in him. Now the sting of death is sin. That is, sin is the cause of death. Not only death temporal; but the soul that is immortal is dead in sin—spiritually dead. The strength of sin is the law:—that is, a sinner or transgressor shall be tried by the justice of the law. Now if justice was executed against a wicked world of Adam's race, we might have been sunk into everlasting and irretrievable ruin, death and misery to all eternity, and God remain just, View the ruined condition of a sinful world weltering in their blood and in their gore. The law being infinite it

requires infinite and righteous obedience, which sinful man cannot render neither by life nor by death.

"Plunged in a gulf of dark despair
We wretched sinners lay;
Without one cheering beam of hope,
Or spark of glimmering day,"

But oh! the soul cheering thought of Jesus—how transporting!—

"With pitying eyes the prince of grace
Beheld our helpless grief.
He saw—and oh! amazing love!
He ran to our relief."

But thanks be to God which give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thus the eternal counsel ran in eternity: the gift of God in his son to die for the gift of his people in the covenant of redemption between God the Father and God the Son.—As the prophet hath said, "the counsel of peace was between them both."

Notwithstanding we fell in our federal head, our spiritual life was in our living head, Christ Jesus. He agreed to die in our law room instead, being our surety, and justice demanded perfect obedience, that the dignity of God should be maintained. That human body was managed by the divine nature. The divinity could not suffer, but the human body must die. Our sins was on our surety laid; and therefore he must die because justice and truth meets together in the Lord Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God which give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for our offences and rose for our justification. He sends his spirit to call home his wandering sheep from the wilderness of sin. He quickens their poor dead souls into life; gives them faith to view him the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believe. This is the victory that overcometh the world—even our faith. This gives joy and comfort to the poor distressed soul. Their sorrow

is turned into joy. A blessed Jesus is their friend. He is the victory over all trials and temptations and sorrow they pass through in this world of sorrow and tribulation.—But remember dear brethren, Jesus said you shall not be tempted above that you are able to bear, &c. Dear brethren and sisters, remember the glorious promises of our blessed Jesus, lest you faint in your minds. He has passed through sorrow and temptations, death and the grave, and rose victorious, and now seated on the throne to give repentance and remission of sins unto Israel. Therefore dear brethren and sisters, be strong in the Lord; and remember the glorious promises of Jesus before he left this world: "If I go and prepare a place for you I will come again and receive you to myself, that where I am, there you may be also." Then brethen and sisters this should encourage us in this world of sorrow while waiting for our great deliverer, to-wit: our Lord Jesus Christ; who will change these vile bodies and fashion them like his unto his glorious body; when this mortal will be clothed with immortality, and this corruptible with incorruption. Then death will be swallowed up with victory; and the children of God will be taken home to meet in association in that blest abode where the wicked will cease from troubling and the weary will be at rest

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all, and comfort your spirits, prepare you for death and judgement and present you to himself as a chaste bride clothed with immortality, is our sincere prayer. Amen.

THOMAS WEST.

STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	Received by Baptism,	Received by Letter,	Dismissed by Letter,	Rec'd by Reeantation,	Excluded,	Dead,	Restored,	Total,	Contributions,	Am't sent for Minutes,	Communion Season,	By whom Supplied.	Post Offices,
Pilgrim's Rest	Eld. Thomas West, R. B. Petty,	—	1	2	—	—	1	--	29	3 00	1 50	May & Oct.	Eld Oden,	Pickensville, P. Co.
: :	Cordy Weaver.													
Zion,	Zachariah Coward.	1	—	—	—	1	—	--	9	-- 00	50			Gordo, P. Co.
Bethany,	G. W. Wilder,* D. Daniel, O. S.	—	—	—	—	—	—	--	43	3 00	2 00	May & Sept.	T. West,	Hope, P. Co.
: :	Harris.													
Liberty,	B. Upchurch, A. Strickland, D.	—	—	—	—	—	1	--	23	2 00	1 00	May & Sept.		Benevola, P. Co.
: :	Williams,													
Sarepta,	J. P. Murphy, W. Scarborough,	—	—	2	—	--	—	--	30	3 00	1 50	May & Oct.	R. Kent,	Pleasant Ridge, G. Co.
: :	W. Richardson.*													
Salem,	Wm. Jennings, J. A Freeman,	--	—	2	—	--	2	--	13	2 00	1 00	May & Oct.		Carrollton, P. Co.
: :	S. Noland,													
Rehoboth,	S. Murphy, J. Hill, E. Eatman.	—	—	4	—	--	1	--	63	5 00	1 50	May & Sept.	R. Kent,	Clinton, G. Co.
Bethlehem,	J. Carpenter, J. Cockrell, D.	—	--	2	—	—	—	—	65	5 00	1 50	May & Oct.		Eutaw, G. Co.
: :	Hitt,*													
Bethel,	Not represented.	—	--	—	—	—	—	—	—	-- 00	— —	May & Oct.		Springfield, G. Co.
Five Mile.	H. Williams, T. B. Edmiston, J.													
: :	T. Allen.	2	—	—	—	—	4	--	60	1 50	1 50	May & Aug.	R. Kent,	New Prospect, G. Co.
Hepseby,	W. G. Harris, Eld. J. Malone.	—	--	—	—	—	—	—	12	2 00	1 00		J. Malone,	Choctaw ag'ncy, O. Co.
		—		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Absentees marked thus [*]		3		12	00	1	9	00	347	$26 50	$13 00			

ARTICLES OF FAITH, ABSTRACT OF PRINCIPLES, AND RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different Churches in our Union; who on producing letters from their respective Churches, certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to seats.

2. The letters from the different Churches are to express their number in full fellowship: those baptised, received by letter, dismissed, excommunicated, or died, since last Association.

3. The members thus chosen and convened, shall be known by the name of the Pilgrim's Rest Association, who shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, or to infringe any of the internal rights of the Churches in Union, but shall be merely considered an advisory council in matters respecting their internal concerns for the common benefit of all such Churches, but the Associotion shall have power to exclude any Church from the Union who shall violate or deviate from the rules of orthodox principles of the Gospel.

4. Every Church in the Union, shall be entitled to three delegates or messengers, and should any Church neglect to represent herself, she shall state the reasons in her letter at the next Association.

5. New Churches may be admitted into the union who shall petition by letter and messengers; and upon examination, if found orthodox and orderly, shall be received by the Association, and the reception thereof manifested by the Moderator giving the right hand.

6. The Association when convened, shall be governed by regular and proper rules of decorum, which they are authorized to form themselves.

7. The Association shall appoint a Moderator from among themselves for the time being, whose duty shall be to see that the rules of decorum be attended to, and take the opinion of the Association on all questions properly brought before it: also, a Clerk shall be appointed, whose duty it shall be to take proper and correct minutes of their proceedings.

8. Every query sent by a particular Church, must be included in their letter certifying that she has endeavored to settle it but could not, in which case the Association shall take it under consideration and give their advice.

9. Queries which immediately concern the Union or

State of Churches at large, when sent by a particular Church as from them, or handed in by proper motion, moved and seconded by an individual, shall be taken up and decided on as soon as an opportunity will permit.

10. The Association shall have a fund for the support of the same, which shall be supplied by the voluntary contributions of the Churches whose duty it shall be to send it by the messengers, which monies so sent shall be deposited in the hands of the Treasurer for that purpose and be accountable to the Association for all monies by them received or paid out as they may direct.

11. There shall be an Association book provided and kept in which the proceedings of the Association shall be regularly recorded by the Clerk.

12. The Association shall in all cases be governed by a majority of the members present.

13. This Association shall correspond with other Associations as may be agreed on while in session.

14. The Association at their first session, shall appoint one of their ministers to preach an introductory sermon at their next session; also one to write the circular letter, which rule shall be observed at every Association thereafter.

15. The Association shall endeavor to furnish the Churches with the minutes of their proceedings.

16. Amendments to this Constitution may be at any time when two thirds of the Churches composing the Association deem necessary,

17. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if need be, and signed by the Moderator, and attested by the Clerk, before the Association rises.

18. We do now jointly engage in the strength of the Lord. and through His assistance, to keep the faith as it was once delivered to the Saints; which we believe to contain the following sublime and important doctrine, viz: the being of a God, a trinity of persons in the Godhead, and that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice; the fall of Adam, the degeneracy of his posterity, corruption of human nature, and the inability of fallen man to do that which is spiritually good. The everlasting love of God to his people elected in him before the foundation of the world, a covenant of grace with Jesus Christ, and a particular redemption by his blood, justification by the imputation of Christ's righteousness, pardon and reconciliation through

him. Calling, regeneration and sanctification by the influence and operation of the Holy Spirit, the final perseverence of Saints in grace; the resurrection of the dead and general judgment: and that the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal. And that Baptism is by immersion in water, and that none but the regular baptised persons have a right to commune together at the Lord's table. Also that no minister have a right to the administration of the ordinances but such as are regularly baptised, called and come under the imposition of hands by the presbytery.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

DEAR BRETHREN, it is likely fresh in your memories, the painful scenes experienced by us being associated with persons calling themselves to be Baptists, though of a different faith, being votaries of the Missionary or Effort System which converted our public counsels of conference both in Church and Association, into a scene of turmoil and confusion, instead of that dove-like spirit of peace which should always pervade christian assemblies, which has led us to the necessity of separating ourselves from them and entering into the following Resolutions:

ARTICLE 1. Therefore Resolved, That we enter our protest against Missionary operations and all its appending Institutions (falsely called Benevolent) as being unprecedented in the word of God.

ART. 2. And in order to guard against the innovations, that may be made on the Church, we advise you as early as practicable to dismiss by letter or otherwise from your Churches all members favorable to the Missionary and Effort System, and moreover we recommend to you to be careful to examine all persons offering their membership to you touching their views relative to Missionary Measures, and if found to be favorable to such measures reject them.

THE RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.
2. But one person shall speak at a time, and he shall rise and address the Moderator.
3. No member shall be interrupted while speaking unless he depart from the subject in hand or use words of personal reflection.

4. Every motion made and seconded, shall come under the consideration of the Association, except withdrawn by him that made it; and if there are two or more motions before the Association on the same subject at one time, the first motions shall be first in order.

5. Every case taken up by the Association, shall first be decided on, or withdrawn before another is offered.

6. When anything is taken up by the Association after allowing time for debate, the Moderator shall take the question, and those in favor of the thing proposed, shall rise on their feet, and those against it, shall keep their seats: the decision thus made shall be announced by the Moderator immediately.

7. No person shall depart from the service of the Association without leave.

8. No person shall speak more than twice on the same subject, without leave obtained, nor shall any proposition be made to close the subject untill the debates are gone through.

9. The appellation of brother shall be used in our addresses to one another.

10. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speech as any other member, provided he appoint some other member to fill the chair while speaking, but shall not vote unless the Association be equally divided.

11. Any person breaking the rules of decorum, shall be reproved as the Association may think proper.

Whereupon the Association adjourned by prayer.

THOMAS WEST, *Moderator.*

JESSE HILL, *Clerk.*